

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-10 DRC-01 RSC-01 /023 W

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R 071100Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5904

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 0018

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, MA

SUBJECT: MARINE GUARDS

REF: STATE 249033

DEPT FOR BRADFORD, AF/EX

PRETORIA FOR RSO

1. I HAVE IN PRINCIPLE CONCLUDED MSG COMPLEMENT SHOULD BE ASSIGNED TANANARIVE BECAUSE OF FOREIGN MINISTER RATSIRAKA'S STATEMENT THAT PRC AND SOVIET EMBASSIES WILL BE OPENED HERE IN 1974 (TANANARIVE 1778) AND RESULTANT RISK OF PENETRATION OF THIS EMBASSY DURING HOURS WHEN CLOSED.

2. TIMING OF MSG ASSIGNMENT CAN ONLY BE DETERMINED WHEN TIMING OF OPENING COMMUNIST EMBASSIES BECOMES CLEARER.

3. SINCE WE SHALL BE ONLY EMBASSY GUARDED BY MILITARY DETACHMENT AND EXISTENCE OF LATTER WILL STAND OUT PROMINENTLY IN THIS SMALL DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY, WE PROPOSE DISCUSS WITH MALAGASY FOREIGN MINISTRY PRIOR ARRIVAL MARINE GUARDS. OUR JUSTIFICATION TO MALAGASY WILL BE, QUITE FRANKLY, NEED TO PROTECT EMBASSY AGAINST PENETRATION BY COMMUNIST MISSIONS. TERRORIST ARGUMENT WOULD BE LESS EFFECTIVE HERE BECAUSE GOMR HAS MAINTAINED CONTINUOUS POLICE PROTECTION AT EMBASSY DURING WORKING HOURS AND AT RESIDENCE ON 24-HOUR BASIS SINCE WE REQUESTED IT FOLLOWING KHARTOUM INCIDENTS.

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4. WE SHALL WANT SMALLEST SIZE MARINE GUARD DETACHMENT POSSIBLE

IN ORDER KEEP OFFICIAL AMERICAN PRESENCE AS LOW AS POSSIBLE. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THIS WOULD BE 4-MAN DETACHMENT, INCLUDING NCOIC. WE PLAN HAVE MARINES ON DUTY ONLY AT NIGHT FROM 1730 TO 0730, PLUS WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS.

5. ESTIMATED SUPPORT COSTS FOR BALANCE FY-74 IS \$8,000. THIS ASSUMES ARRIVAL MARINES TANANARIVE MARCH 1, WHICH PURELY HYPOTHETICAL UNTIL TIMING PROBLEM (PARA 2 ABOVE) RESOLVED. MENDENHALL

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NNN

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